

yond where your ministration can reach him. Today the weak man struggling against temptation needs your aid, tomorrow he may be overcome, defeated, lying in the dust of shame. Today the world is hungering for the bread of life, for the old, old story of Jesus and his love; tomorrow it may be too late. *Today* is the word of the gospel, the word of divine blessing; tomorrow is the rock on which thousands of hopes have been wrecked and gone down in despair. He who performs each day's duties faithfully will have no sad regrets of duties left undone when life closes. Each moment well spent will mean a life well spent when time with us ceases to be.

Three Sides of the Liquor Problem

The *Outlook*, August 6, gives a very interesting bulletin issued by the Department of Labor on the liquor problem. The Commission gives two sides of the question, the financial and the industrial. To these we add a third, the moral side without which the report must remain incomplete.

THE FINANCIAL SIDE

An exceptionally interesting bulletin just issued by the Department of Labor is devoted largely to the economic aspects of the liquor problem, and presents in small compass the results of the investigations ordered by Congress in 1896. The returns for taxation sustain the point sometimes made by the defenders of the liquor traffic. The taxes now paid by it—or rather through it—not only far exceed the cost of all our courts, police systems, and asylums, but nearly equal the National expenditures for public schools. The United States Government receives \$121,000,000 a year, the State governments \$10,000,000, the county governments \$5,000,000, and the municipalities \$5,000,000. Besides these sums, which are paid into the various public treasuries through special taxes, the Commissioner estimates that about \$10,000,000 are paid in by reason of the general tax upon the property employed in the liquor business. This estimate is probably exaggerated, for it implies that about a billion dollars of capital is invested in the liquor business—or \$3,000 for every person in any way engaged therein. But, cutting it in two, there still remains \$176,000,000—or fourteen dollars for every family in the country—which the public treasuries certainly receive from the liquor traffic.

THE INDUSTRIAL SIDE

That which is of the greatest interest in the report, however, is not the amount of revenue the public receives from the liquor traffic—for this revenue, as every one knows, is simply the salvage from the much greater sums wasted upon intoxicants—but the returns made by employers in different industries regarding the drinking habits of their employees. Of seven thousand employers who answered the question whether, in engaging employees, they discriminated against those who drank, forty-four hundred replied in the affirmative, and only sixteen hundred

in the negative. By industries the returns were as follows:

	YES.	NO.
Mining - - -	56 per cent.	44 per cent.
Agriculture -	72 " "	28 " "
Manufactures -	79 " "	21 " "
Trade - - -	88 " "	12 " "
Transportation	97 " "	3 " "

About two thousand of the employers forbade any use of intoxicants whatever by employees of certain grades, and fifteen hundred more forbade it when the employees were on duty. It is worthy of note that the grades of work in which employers required that no liquor should be used are always those entailing responsibility. For example, in agriculture it was the foremen, managers, etc., who were required to be abstainers; in manufactures it was the engineers, firemen, etc.; and in transportation, the trainmen, motormen, conductors, switchmen, and the like. It will be observed that the trades most highly organized show the greatest disposition to prohibit the use of liquor. Railroads, for example, stand at the head of the list, and agriculture very nearly at the foot, though the temperance sentiment among farmers is vastly stronger than among railroad managers. Apparently as the organization of society becomes largely industrial there will be a tendency to make more strenuous the demand that minds shall be kept clear and hands kept steady by abstinence from the use of intoxicants.

THE MORAL SIDE

The financial side as presented by the Commission is decidedly misleading. It leaves the impression that the liquor business *pays* the government. This is false doctrine as every honest man knows, and as the government itself knows. The taxes on liquor amount to more than the money spent for education by the National Government, but this does not take into account the fact that that which makes it possible to gather such an immense tax unfits thousands of our best men for service of any kind, takes them out of schools, and makes wrecks out of them instead of citizens. \$176,000,000 paid into the national treasury by the liquor business! Who pays it? Those who drink the liquor, of course, three-fourths of them poor people. What, send 75,000 souls to perdition each year, fill jails and penitentiaries, alms houses, insane asylums, rob the country of its brightest youth, all for \$176,000,000. It is a great pity that prejudice, greed for money, appetite for liquor, corrupt politics, forbid an impartial investigation of this the greatest problem before the American people. If the government must get its \$176,000,000 at the price of purity, virtue, happy homes, good citizenship, yea, immortal souls, then it were well to have a general house cleaning, and march out of office about ten thousand fat politicians who put these \$176,000,000 into their pockets. It is all folly. It is merest bosh. It is a lie. The government does not need this money, if it does and can get it in no other way, then for God's sake

let the government go to pieces, as it will at any rate if it has to be supported by such methods as these. Dollars and cents! Yes, dollars and cents for the bloated politicians, and poverty to those who furnish the dollars. This ruined Rome. It will ruin this country just as surely.

Let any one carefully examine the industrial side of the liquor problem, and if the moral side of the question does not appeal to his good sense, that certainly will. The facts given under the industrial side of the question, should forever decide the financial side also. Study the question, and let the whole Brethren church, as one man, stand up in defiance of this great evil which is doing us and humanity in general infinitely more harm than Spain has ever been able or ever will be able to do in Cuba and all her colonies.

In the United States Also

We do not believe that liquor will incapacitate soldiers in Cuba for efficient service any more than it will in the United States. Liquor unfits men for service anywhere and everywhere. If abstinence from the use of liquor is essential to the health and efficiency of soldiers in Cuba, why not in the United States. The order issued by General Miles July 7, to the army invading Cuba, is sufficient reason why the regimental canteen should be forever abolished. It is as follows:

"The army is engaged in active service under climatic conditions which it has not before experienced. In order that it may perform its most difficult and laborious duties with the least practicable loss from sickness, the utmost care consistent with prompt and efficient service must be exercised by all, especially by officers. The history of other armies has demonstrated that in a hot climate abstinence from the use of intoxicating drink is essential to continued health and efficiency. Commanding officers of all grades, and officers of the medical staff will carefully note the effect of the use of such light beverages—wine and beer—as are permitted to be sold at the post and camp exchanges, and the commanders of all independent commands are enjoined to restrict or to entirely prohibit the sale of such beverages, if the welfare of the troops or the interests of the service require such action. In this most important hour of the nation's history it is due the Government from all those in its service that they should not only render the most earnest efforts for its honor and welfare, but their full physical and intellectual force should be given to their public duties, uncontaminated by any indulgences that shall dim, stupefy, weaken, or impair their faculties and strength in any particular. Officers of every grade, by example as well as by authority, will contribute to the enforcement of the order."

The sinner alone is a slave. We know not true liberty until the shackles of sin have been removed from our souls by the crucified Son of God.